



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2009

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DRUG COURT GRADUATES CELEBRATE SOBRIETY ***Forty Local Teens Begin New Life After Substance Abuse***

Graduation is a time to celebrate the end of one life and the beginning of another. For Drug Court graduates, it's a time to mark the end of substance abuse and the beginning of sobriety. On Thursday, May 28, more than 40 local teens will celebrate their new lives beginning at 3:30 p.m. at 1600 Pacific Highway in the County Administration Center Board Chambers on the 3rd floor.

Drug Court is a nine-month program for juvenile probationers who are non-violent but have repeated failures with drug treatment. They appear before a judge weekly and are tested by probation officers regularly. There are incentives for positive behavior and sanctions for those who fail to comply.

"Drug Court has been extremely effective at helping youth with chronic substance abuse issues to get on the wagon of a clean and sober lifestyle," said Chief Probation Officer Mack Jenkins. "Probation officers do a tremendous job of ensuring drug offenders attend treatment and school, obtain employment, and spend their free time engaged in positive activities."

During the past year, 90 juvenile Drug Court participants successfully completed the program, with less than seven percent re-offending since completing the program.

A selected group of Drug Court graduates have signed media waivers and will be available for interviews and photographing.

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